David Bowles



Professor Bowles has been a faculty member at the Utah Water Research Laboratory and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Utah State University since 1978, and for twenty-five years he has been responsible for developing and improving the state-of-the-art in dam safety risk assessment. His work on Portfolio Risk Assessment of dams has saved hundreds of millions of dollars in retrofitting costs, while significantly reducing the risk of loss of life and property damage associated with dam failure. Today, the Risk Management tools he has developed here are used throughout the world for prioritizing mitigation plans to improve the safety of dams.

The 1997 recipient of the "Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service" from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and a leader in numerous professional organizations, Professor Bowles has also established an outstanding record of teaching and service closer to home: Serving as Director of the Utah Water Research Laboratory for 5 years, he assisted many new faculty in establishing their academic and research careers, while throughout his career at USU he has brought his real world experience into the classroom, and served as a mentor for many graduate students who have gone on to outstanding careers of their own.